

From the editor —

# Welcome to your community newspaper

The La Conner Weekly News is being delivered to every home in the La Conner school district for its annual subscription drive. Dear subscribers, the newspaper you need and trust is being shared this month with your neighbors and friends. The Weekly News will be improved as more people read it, serving its function of informing and knitting the community together.

That has been the functions of newspapers in La Conner since the Puget Sound Mail started publishing here in 1879. The Weekly News is not a direct descendant of that paper but it maintains the legacy of this town having the oldest continuously weekly published newspaper in the state of Washington. That is as much a tribute to area residents as it is to the long line of publishers over the past 142 years.

The world we live in is substantially different from 1879 or 1921. In 1879 Skagit County did not exist, this region being southern Whatcom County until 1883. In 1921 the Roaring 20s had just begun. But through it all good times and bad, drought years and flood years, times of plenty and times of want, residents of greater La Conner have been able to open their local newspaper weekly to keep abreast of news, art, culture, entertainment, farm harvests, sports, schools, government, kids, cats in trees, 100th birthdays and 75th wedding anniversaries — all that and much more.

To those of you surprised to have the La Conner Weekly News delivered, please read. Take the wrap-around page with you into town and visit the merchants wanting you to stop in and look for holiday gifts. Every week, every day is a good time to be shopping locally.

Subscribers — readers — are the reason for the Weekly News. The paper is on the verge of surpassing 900 subscribers. With your decision, it will enter the new year with over 1,000. As a way of saying thanks, and encouraging you to sign up, your subscription will be FREE if you are the 950th, the 1,000th or the 1,050th subscriber. And everyone subscribing or renewing their subscription in December will be entered in a drawing for a \$50 gift card to the display advertiser of your choice. Three households will be winners.

This is a fun way to say thank you: Thank you for caring about your local community. Reading — and supporting — the newspaper is one of the many ways our neighbors pay attention to the place they call home. Many of the projects and special activities volunteers support are covered in these pages. In December readers may see their children — or their grandchildren, or their neighbors' children or grandchildren — on Santa's lap either at the La Conner Rotary Club's pancake breakfast or at Gilkey Square, where the community Christmas tree will be lit Dec. 4.

The Weekly News strives to put on its pages every week the news of the day, stories big and small, serious and not so serious. That is because the paper is about your community.

The Weekly News is also about democracy. Yes, that means covering the local school board, the town council and the fire district commissioners' meetings. But democracy is about more than meetings and more than the local, county and state legislature elections that are covered. That is why the editor encourages engagement and participation and invites every one of you to write letters and guest columns. We are all the heartbeat of the community.

Your local newspaper is as old fashioned as democracy and as current as the conversations you have with your neighbor over the fence or at your kids' soccer game.

If you are new to the Weekly News, please consider subscribing and inviting the community into your home weekly.

— Ken Stern

## Musings — on the editor's mind

It is a strange business with an odd purpose, newspaper publishing. It is a business and earns its profits by selling the interest and purchasing power of its readers to advertisers.

It attracts its readers with the news of the day, but that is more than just the facts that pop up in town. Reporting does start with, for example, news of water line breaks, whether on Channel Drive or Reservation Road. But that is the start of the story, both for staff and what appears on the page.

Journalism occurs when the editor and staff analyze underlying causes. That can be through examining the age of the infrastructure and historic funding sources that first built water and sewage treatment systems. It is linking heavy rains that eroded soil causing the road to sink and break the pipe. And it is through editorials that ask readers to consider a sustainable future is only possible if we cooperate and invest now for the sake of children yet unborn.

Newspapers are not business. Yet they have a critical role in a healthy democratic society. Our Founding Fathers planted newspapers' community oversight role squarely in the First Amendment of the Constitution, the only business named in that document, call-

ing for and defending freedom of the press.

It is in the nature and purpose of newspapers to ask questions, not for grandstanding or gotcha moments but to probe so the entire community can consider both the news of the day and underlying causes of decisions and reasons things are done or not done.

Not every resident can attend a council or school board meeting or observe a rising river or a leaking dike, but a newspaper takes the initiative as the eyes and ears of the community. A paper's staff considers and plans, anticipating coverage but also helped by you, citizens who stop by or call or email with issues concerning them and which they believe the community would be helped by having it broadcast.

Broadcast. That is originally a farming term. One hundred years ago radio allowed the seemingly instantaneous widespread broadcasting of information. This paper reaches you weekly, as the name, Weekly News, states. Its goal is not to be first but to be accurate and helpful. Not every business owner considers that. For this publisher, it is the purpose for, yes, publishing.

## LETTERS

### Abortion needs to be legal

Women marched in October, as they will again and again, to demand the right to control their bodies and to make their own choices as to when or not have a child. Access to abortion is currently eroding with at least seven states considering laws severely limiting access to abortion, mimicking Texas law, SB 8.

"Since, for forty years, anti-abortion lawmakers have gone to great lengths to block abortion access, October 2021 marked a shameful milestone in their efforts: (This is t)he 40th year of the Hyde Amendment, which keeps Medicaid and other government insurance plans from covering abortion." (NYT)

Where, I wonder, are the lying-in clinics and post birth-care facilities provided by anti-abortionists for the poor, the 14, 15 or 16-year-old moms who could not get abortions, who are probably both financially and psychologically unprepared to be a mother? As a teenager I was blindfolded in Tijuana, Mexico and driven to an unknown location to get an illegal abortion. I remember the fear of not knowing if I'd make it back alive and the societal shame of the secrecy. I knew I was too young, naive and ill-equipped to be a mother and took a chance for my own life.

"The number of illegal procedures in this country plummeted from around 130,000 to 17,000 between 1972 and 1974. The number of deaths associated with illegal abortion decreased from 39 to five in that same time period; women who died as a result of illegal abortions typically were black, were more than 12 weeks pregnant and had self-induced in their own community." (Guttmacher Institute).

Do we want to go back to those days before 1973's Roe vs. Wade, to a time of illegal abortions? Does righteousness trump right? Women fight for legality.

Sincerely,  
Christine Wardenburg-Skinner  
Edison

A citizen's view —

## A possible new apartment building

By Linda Talman

The talk of the town is the proposed development in back of the old gas station (in back of Sliders) on Center Street. To set the record straight, we in the neighborhood welcome the addition to the rental housing inventory. But we don't welcome a gigantic building that will kill the neighborhood.

The proposal is three stories, the bottom level of which is short term lodging. There is tons wrong with the proposal, but this letter will not address those failings.

This is letter is about vision — or the lack thereof.

When the town was looking at the treasure of the Hedlin property, they thought nothing of rezoning a chunk of it to residential. We need this, they said and while they needed to reconsider the zoning they did not need to make it unaffordable residential. They could have worked with the Skagit Home Trust to make it affordable,

Now we have this Center Street proposal. The part of the property abutting Center is commercial. It didn't need to be zoned commercial but it was. History. The developer is now in a bind because residential use is not allowed in that location except as a Conditional Use above the commercial use. So they put two stories of residential above the commercial lodging on the ground floor to meet code and all of that will be above the increase in height necessitated by the flood plain. That makes three stories on top of an already elevated base flood level. That will be well over thirty feet tall with all entrances of residential on the back side. Picture that unneighborly facade.

But is there a way out of this? There always is. If Maple Avenue happened, Center Street could too. There is a way. A disputed planning decision of the past should not have to doom a neighborhood. The ideal outcome would be to allow the two stories of residential rentals that are proposed and ditch the lodging on the ground floor. It would save the owner from wasting money on a losing business and might allow for a more interesting design.

The design could actually serve our housing needs and even have some open space. It could have enough proper parking. It could have a charging station.

Commercial lodging is not a need. Tall buildings are not a need. We need a good neighbor to build a place worthy of La Conner—the gem we call home.

The town could call for a moratorium on the current zoning of that property -- which is not yet vested and give La Conner what it needs — this time. Make the property residential only because that is what a residential neighborhood needs.

A 50-year resident of La Conner, after decades of service Talman resigned from the town's planning commission this year.

### LETTER POLICY

Please write! Letters up to 350 words are welcome as are longer analyses and statements.

Write a 500 word guest column.

**Deadline: 5 p.m. Sunday for next issue.**

Include your name, address and phone number for verification.

Letters are edited for civility clarity and style.

SEND TO

editor@laconnernews.com

## Donations needed for Nooksack Valley children

The day before Thanksgiving the Nooksack School District reached out to the North Counties arm of the Forgotten Children's Fund to see if they could possibly help in providing a Christmas for the flood victims in the areas of Sumas and Everson.

Unknown challenges now confront hundreds of families in the Nooksack Valley, including the towns of Sumas and Everson, due to recent flooding. Christmas this year for these families will take a back seat to survival.

We have an immediate opportunity to make a difference. If you can drop off a new unwrapped toy, a jacket, diapers or a blanket at the La Conner Town Hall or at Washington Federal bank on Morris Street by the end of the workday on Wednesday Dec. 8, your contribution will be delivered to the Nooksack School District on or before Dec. 10. There they will be individually wrapped and distributed by Christmas.

The Forgotten Children's Fund is a 501.c3 state approved all-volunteer charity that has provided Christmas to families throughout the greater Puget Sound region since 1975. www.forgottenchildrensfund.org.

The generous citizens of greater La Conner, working with the Forgotten Children's Fund, have provided a Santa and teams of elves to this program for the last 15 years. Each year they work diligently to locate families who are going through challenging times and then on Christmas Eve, Santa and his team deliver gifts, jackets, food and hope.

This Christmas Eve will be no different for the families served in La Conner. Santa will make his rounds in Skagit County. You are needed to help get gifts and necessities to our neighbors to the north.

—Source: The Forgotten Children's Fund

### Center Street apartment building not right fit

Regarding the proposed building construction at 306 or 310 Center Street, La Conner.

Reasonable development is not only unavoidable, it is desirable. Housing is necessary and should be affordable and available in safe communities with good schools, infrastructure and other amenities.

The location in question is a very appropriate location for housing for many reasons but the scale and scope of this project, as proposed, is ill-conceived. To place 20 housing units into a space appropriate in a residential area for four houses seems speculative and suspiciously like someone seeking to gain approval and build with an intent to spin and profit with scant consideration for the La Conner community. It seeks to capitalize on what makes a small town so desirable while at the same time eroding the small-town esthetic.

There are a number of procedural questions that need to be addressed since it appears that the checklist that lead to a finding of environmental insignificance has overlooked the fact that the property in question was for decades

a fuel storage depot: It was part of the gas station on Morris Street and, as far as I know, the potential presence of contaminants associated with gasoline, diesel and heating oil transference and storage has not been addressed. There have been spillage incidents. This should have been part of the original site plan investigation but it is not mentioned.

The project drawing is misleading, having 22 parking units onsite seems to address the parking requirements but totally disregards the actual amount of space it takes to park. Drawing 20 spaces on paper doesn't make it a reality. Having what amounts to six hotel rooms with access/egress on a residential street is entirely impractical and a gross imposition on the residents already there.

This is a partial city block with questionable zoning that is in an established residential area despite how it is defined in statute or comprehensive plan. This location is appropriate for four homes at best. It should be defined that way.

My thoughts,  
Bruce Cornwall  
La Conner

## La Conner Weekly News

An adjudicated Skagit County Newspaper. Published every Wednesday in La Conner, WA

### Subscriptions

- Skagit County Print & Online: \$60
- Out of County Print & Online: \$75
- Online only: \$60

Member of Washington Newspapers Publisher's Association

Copyright ©2021



## Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

editor@laconnernews.com

Continuing the tradition of weekly publishing in La Conner since 1878

*The Weekly News sits on the original homelands of the Coastal Salish peoples*

### La Conner News Publishing Co., LLC

119 N. Third St., La Conner, WA 98257

USPS 363-550

360-466-3315 • Fax: 360-466-1195

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

### Postmaster:

Send change of address to:  
La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Michelle Havist, General Manager  
michelle@laconnernews.com

Bill Reynolds, News Editor  
news@laconnernews.com

Rhonda Hundertmark, Production Manager  
production@laconnernews.com

Marissa Conklin, Sales Representative  
marissa@laconnernews.com

Eileen Engelstad, Proofreader  
Rick Shorten, Special Projects

### Contributors:

Anne Basye, Judy Booth, Robin Carneen, Nancy Crowell, Don Coyote, Mel Damski, MaryRose Denton, John Doyle, Janna Gage, Bob Hamblin, Ollie Iversen, Katie Kramer, Bobbi Krebs-McMullen, Patricia Paul, Brad Reynolds, Claire Swedberg.

From the editor —

## Get the local scoop in your news weekly

How different La Conner and the western Skagit Valley is because a community newspaper is delivered to about 1,000 readers weekly. Stop, really, and consider how rare that is, how special and important at the end of 2021. You have your local weekly newspaper in your hands. Do you know how many people in Skagit County or the 39 counties in the state of Washington can say that? A lot fewer than could in 2020 or 2015 or 2010 or the year 2000.

The La Conner Weekly News is a rare bird because hundreds of newspapers have gone out of business the past 20 years, a tragedy accelerated by the coronavirus pandemic.

It is increasingly rare, because the La Conner Weekly News is a strong, award winning and profit making newspaper. Weekly, and in this issue, through stories and photographs, it is keeping its readers current on arts, business, government, school, sports and Santa activities. Kentucky journalists decided 23 times last spring that our Weekly News staff were winners, among the best small circulation newspapers in the state.

Here is a way your community newspaper connects you to your community. Read the page 5 story on the Skagit County Historical Museum efforts to collect local items of interest — stuff from you — that are the real life stories of the coronavirus pandemic in the Skagit Valley, where we live. How many items have they collected to date? A handful. Not very much.

Here is betting that they will bring in more good stuff by the end of the month than they have all year. Why? Because you read about it on page 5 and you were nudged into action by your friendly neighborhood editor. That is not something all your friends and neighbors have visiting them every week. If you engage in your community by investing not so much — \$60 a year: \$1.15 a week — you make time and a willingness to pause and reflect and ground yourself in your community. That is what inviting your local newspaper in to your life does.

It is not just the editor or staff, writers and photographers — and the back of the house people — making this issue real. Readers engage and challenge fellow community members, as seen again in this issue's letter page. The Weekly News reports on a proposed 20 unit apartment building but it is readers who are raising questions and urging their neighbors to pay attention and take action.

This democracy thing is not just about the First Amendment and freedom of the press. It is not just about voting or arguing or polarizing yourself or others. Newspapers succeed because the people who read them engage with each other, with leaders — elected or otherwise — and sometimes with the newspaper editor. Yes, find your name in the Weekly News because you took the time to share a fun fact or a serious concern with your neighbors through the newspaper. Rebecca Kerr did that, applauding another great American institution: her local volunteer fire department. Read her story on page 7.

Are you worried and frustrated that the town government bought and sold Hedlin Field without stopping for a year or two to discuss the possibility of turning it into a mini-campus of affordable cottages? And upset again now that plans for a three-story apartment building are making their way through the government process? Linda Talman is concerned. Her letter on this page says so.

Finally, this paper employs and pays 10 people throughout the year. It directly contributes to the town and county's economy. It is a real business located in the town on its page 1 banner: La Conner. Its staff are working hard with pen and paper and camera in hand or behind the scenes laying out pages, updating mailing lists, getting invoices out. They answer the phone and answer your question when you call to ask about someone who died but you cannot remember all the details. That happened Monday.

Enjoy this week's issue. Staff did, putting it out for you and your family, neighbors and friends. Like the post office, we are here to serve. And, like school teachers we believe in contributing and shaping the future of our community by talking to you about the facts, ideas and hopes you have in front of you, in your heart and on your mind.

— Ken Stern

## Musings — on the editor's mind

A wonderful thing happened to our neighbor and the Weekly News proofreader, Eileen Engelstad, last week, though she did not realize it until after the fact. She had to skip her Nov. 30 work shift, called to superior court in Mount Vernon for jury duty. Oh my god. How much fun is that? How stuck was she?

Read her column on the right side of the page and find out how much she learned about citizenship and democracy and how we are all in this together. Yes, the people you are in the grocery store with might be your fellow jurors or judging you if your car slips horrifically off the road in absolutely the wrong way and place and runs into someone. Or who knows what the case may be.

But whether you ever are on either side of a jury box railing in a courtroom, please read Eileen's article and pause and reflect about being a citizen and the opportunities you have to think and discuss and decide and affect a fellow citizen's life.

Our society is not very democratic, with a small "d." We might be clever debaters and get good lines in at the bar or at the neighbor's Sunday while watching football or gathering with family for the holidays. But look around and count on your ten fingers and ten toes the number of times you are called upon to debate and jointly decide the future of an issue or judge a person's actions. Consider: The jury only finishes its job when everyone agrees to and shares in the decision to convict or acquit.

Being on a committee at work or church or the softball team is not the same. This trial by jury thing — think about it, a jury of your peers. That could be the bank president, but more likely the bank teller. It could be the store owner, but there are a lot more clerks on the floor. But it is not a matter of status or power. In a jury, everyone gets an equal say. The lawyer and doctor might be smooth talkers, but they only get one vote and if their fellow jury members assert their authority, they can tell the guys in suits that they are not in charge, that this is a group of equals and each has the same weight and that one vote.

Juries might be the oddest thing about American democracy. I am so glad Eileen was called, that she went, that she paid attention, was affected by her experience and had the willingness to share her reflections. And if I ever do something so stupid and so bad that I end up in court and before a judge, I will ask for a jury trial and hope someone like Eileen gets chosen from the jury pool to hear my case.

## LETTERS

### More on Center Street apartments

The rest of the story

Recently the town posted a green announcement on the property on Center Street in the back of Sliders — raising alarms in town — because of the scope of the oversized proposal and the shoddiness of the application. Since then many letters have been written — ten of them posted on the town website through Dec. x.

The deadline for the letters was Dec. 1 but that doesn't matter.

After the deadline, the mayor called four of the citizens who wrote letters. He told one that she didn't need to send her letter to the council and mayor — which I recommend because it gets posted on the town website.

He allegedly told the other three — who compared notes — that this proposal wasn't really the way it was really going to be. What?

Why would the planner do that to us — notifying neighbors of their worst nightmare when the application had so many application problems? Are we supposed to do the homework for the town?

Why would the mayor allegedly tell a neighbor that she didn't have to send her letter to the mayor and council? There is no other way to let them know. And why would he tell other three letter writers that the project would not actually be the way the application said it would be?

Is this just throwing spaghetti at the wall to see what sticks?

\*So for the record — if you want to get your letter out to more people but you are shy about a letter to the editor or your letter is too long for the paper — do what he allegedly said not to do. Send it to all council members. It will be posted on line at townoflaconner.org and widen your audience. (Send to both the paper and the town!)

\*Also for the record — you can still send letters to the mayor and the council. Planning, too. Heck, the spaghetti didn't stick.

\*\*We are all ok with modest residences.

La Conner United,  
Linda Talman  
La Conner

### Debating abortion

I thank Christine Wardenburg-Skinner for her letter on abortion (Dec. 1). I would offer three observations. First, I grieve with her for women dying from illegal abortions — and I grieve for those dying since the Supreme Court's 1973 decision. The U.S. Centers for Disease Control say that since then, at least 521 women died from abortion, all but 57 from what supporters call "safe and legal" abortions.

These deaths may be seriously undercounted. Investigative journalists at the Chicago Sun-Times ("The Abortion Profiteers," 1978) and Slate magazine ("The Back Alley," 2011) have documented how laws upheld by the Supreme Court protect unscrupulous abortion practitioners who harm women.

Second, the letter asked whether those against abortion provide health care and other services for pregnant and parenting women. That is happening especially in the Catholic hospitals that make up a major part of our health care system.

In our area, Catholic Community Services assists women through the Farmworker Center in Mount Vernon, the PREPARES (Pregnancy and Parenting Services) program helping women and their families from pregnancy to a child's fifth year and Project Rachel offering counseling and healing for post-abortive women. When

(continued on page 3) Jumps continue off editorial page (continued on page 10)

## Journalists: 'Your mission is to explain the world'

By Pope Francis

I want to pay homage to your entire working community (of journalists), to tell you that the Pope cares about you, follows you, esteems you and considers you precious. Journalism does not come about by choosing a profession, but by embarking on a mission, a little like a doctor, who studies and works so that the evil in the world may be healed. Your mission is to explain the world, to make it less obscure, to make those who live in it less afraid of it and look at others with greater awareness, and also with more confidence. It is not an easy mission. It is complicated to think, to meditate, to study more deeply, to stop and collect ideas and to study the contexts and precedents of a piece of news. The risk, as you well know, is to be overwhelmed by the news instead of being able to make sense of it. This is why I encourage you to preserve and cultivate that sense of mission that is at the origin of your choice. And I will do so with three verbs that I believe characterize good journalism: listen, investigate and report.

To listen is a verb that concerns you as journalists, but it concerns us all as a Church, at all times and especially now that the synodal process has begun. For a journalist, listening means having the patience to meet face to face with the people to be interviewed, the protagonists of the stories being told, the sources from which to receive news. Listening always goes hand in hand with seeing, with being present: certain nuances, sensations and well-rounded descriptions can only be conveyed to readers, listeners and spectators if the journalist has listened and seen for him- or herself. This means escaping — and I know how difficult this is in your work! — escaping from the tyranny of always being online, on social networks, on the web. The journalism of listening and seeing well requires time. Not everything can be told through email, the telephone, or a screen. As I recalled in this year's Message for Communications Day, we need journalists who are willing to "wear out the soles of their shoes", to get out of the newsroom, to walk around the city, to meet people, to assess the situations in which we live in our time. Listening is the first word that came to my mind.

The second, to investigate, is a consequence of listening and seeing. Every piece of news, every fact we talk about, every reality we describe needs to be investigated. At a time when millions of pieces of information are available on the web, and when many people obtain their information and form their opinions on social media, where unfortunately the logic of simplification and opposition sometimes prevails, the most important contribution that good journalism can make is that of in-depth analysis. Indeed, what more can you offer to those who read or listen to you than what they already find on the web? You can offer the context, the precedents, the keys to interpretation that help to collocate the fact that has happened. You know very well that, even when it comes to information about the Holy See, not everything said is always "new" or "revolutionary." I tried to document this in my recent address to the popular movements, when I indicated the references to the Social Doctrine of the Church on which my appeals were based. Tradition and the Magisterium continue and develop by facing the ever-new demands of the times in which we live and enlightening them with the Gospel.

To listen, to investigate, and the third verb, to report: I don't have to explain it to you, who have become journalists precisely because you are curious about reality and passionate about telling it. Reporting means not putting oneself in the foreground, nor setting oneself up as a judge, but allowing oneself to be struck and sometimes wounded by the stories we encounter, in order to be able to tell them with humility to our readers. Reality is a great antidote to many "ailments." Reality — what happens, the lives and testimonies of people — deserves to be told. I think of the books you write, Valentina, on women who suffer the tyranny of abuse. Today we are in great need of journalists and communicators who are passionate about reality, capable of finding the treasures often hidden in the folds of our society and recounting them, allowing us to be impressed, to learn, to broaden our minds, to grasp aspects that we did not know before. I am grateful to you for your effort to recount reality. The diversity of approaches, of style, of points of view linked to different cultures or religious affiliations is also a wealth of information. I also thank you for what you tell us about what goes wrong in the Church, for helping us not to sweep it under the carpet and for the voice you have given to the victims of abuse: thank you for this.

Pope Francis recognized two Vatican reporters, Philip Pulella and Valentina Alazraki, in a Vatican address Nov. 11, 2021.

## A citizen does her jury duty

By Eileen Engelstad

Like many others, last month I received a summons for jury duty. Since it was the beginning of the holiday season, with upcoming events and obligations that are important to me, I did not want to have an uninvited intrusion in my life. My immediate reaction was to plead for a release from jury duty. In fact, when I returned the initial papers I "mentioned" my advanced age, 77, in hopes they would deem me unfit. Much to my chagrin, I received another letter from Skagit County Superior Court, this time welcoming me into service, thanking me for being a good citizen and informing me of the time and place to report (after phoning in the night before, to confirm there was a case pending).

Well, that was not welcome news at the time! Then I began to put things in perspective. First, if I were on trial, I would want someone like me as a juror, since I am a fair-minded, analytical and reasonable person. Second, I recalled that once before, many, many years ago I was on a jury and it was a memorable experience in every sense. At that time, a young man's life was placed in the hands of eleven strangers and me. It was a daunting responsibility, not taken lightly and I actually was the hold-out when the rest wanted to give him the strongest punishment for something I viewed as a horrific accident, not an intentional act. I was feisty, probably despised by the other jurors, but unwilling to forfeit a young man's life because of his youthful bad judgment and immense bad luck. Eventually, I persuaded the others to agree to a lesser charge.

### La Conner Weekly News

An adjudicated Skagit County Newspaper. Published every Wednesday in La Conner, WA

#### Subscriptions

- Skagit County
- Print & Online: \$60
- Out of County
- Print & Online: \$75
- Online only: \$60

Member of Washington Newspapers Publisher's Association

Copyright ©2021



### Ken Stern, Publisher & Editor

editor@laconnernews.com

Continuing the tradition of weekly publishing in La Conner since 1878

*The Weekly News sits on the original homelands of the Coastal Salish peoples.*

#### La Conner News Publishing Co., LLC

119 N. Third St., La Conner, WA 98257

USPS 363-550

360-466-3315 • Fax: 360-466-1195

www.laconnerweeklynews.com

#### Postmaster:

Send change of address to:

La Conner Weekly News

PO Box 1465, La Conner, WA 98257

Michelle Havist, General Manager  
michelle@laconnernews.com

Bill Reynolds, News Editor  
news@laconnernews.com

Rhonda Hundertmark, Production Manager  
production@laconnernews.com

Marissa Conklin, Sales Representative  
marissa@laconnernews.com

Eileen Engelstad, Proofreader  
Rick Shorten, Special Projects

#### Contributors:

Anne Basye, Judy Booth, Robin Carneen, Nancy Crowell, Don Coyote, Mel Damski, MaryRose Denton, John Doyle, Janna Gage, Bob Hamblin, Ollie Iversen, Katie Kramer, Bobbi Krebs-McMullen, Patricia Paul, Brad Reynolds, Claire Swedberg.